



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: April 14, 2022

CONTACT: Rhea Ehresmann
Region I Groundfish Project Leader
rhea.ehresmann@alaska.gov
(907) 747-6688

2022 PERSONAL USE BOTTOMFISH FISHERY

The personal use bottomfish fishery will be reopened to the retention of six demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) species, including quillback, China, rosethorn, copper, canary, and tiger rockfish on Thursday, April 14, 2022. The personal use bottomfish fishery will remain closed to the retention of yelloweye rockfish in all personal use waters for the 2022 season (Figure 1; 5 AAC 77.655). Personal use fishers are required to follow regulations in 5 AAC 77.674 which restrict the daily possession limit for rockfish to three fish, of which none may be a yelloweye rockfish in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, and the bag and possession limit for rockfish to three fish, of which none may be a yelloweye rockfish in the Ketchikan vicinity area.

Despite conservative management over the last decade, yelloweye rockfish biomass in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska has declined approximately 60% since assessments began in 1994. Annual trends in biological data (length, weight, and age by sex) reveal truncation of older age classes, indicating reduced reproductive potential and increasing uncertainty for future recruitment. Yelloweye rockfish are particularly vulnerable to overexploitation and are slow to recover given their longevity, slow growth, late maturation, and high site-fidelity, with yelloweye rockfish reaching an estimated maximum age of 122 years and maturing at 18–22 years.

Personal use fishers are encouraged to utilize rockfish deepwater release devices to decrease release mortality of rockfish while bottomfish fishing for other species. More information on rockfish conservation and deepwater release devices can be found at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.rockfishconservation>.

The subsistence bottomfish fishery remains open for retention of all DSR species, in areas defined in 5 AAC 01.716, except that bottomfish may not be taken for subsistence purposes in the waters off Cape Edgecumbe enclosed by a box defined as 56°55.5' N lat, 56°57' N lat, 135°54' W long, and 135°57' W long (5 AAC 01.725 (b)).

Annette Islands Reserve

Fishermen are reminded the Annette Islands Reserve is a federally recognized Indian reservation in Alaska. The waters within 3,000 feet of Annette Island, Ham Island, Hemlock Island, Spire Island, Walker Island, Lewis Island, and adjacent rocks and islets are designated within the fishing reserve. Fisheries within the reserve are managed by the Metlakatla Indian Community for authorized fisheries participants. Metlakatla residents are also reminded that waters beyond 3,000 feet of Annette Island, Ham Island, Hemlock Island, Spire Island, Walker Island, Lewis Island, and adjacent rocks and islets are managed by the State of Alaska.

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3255

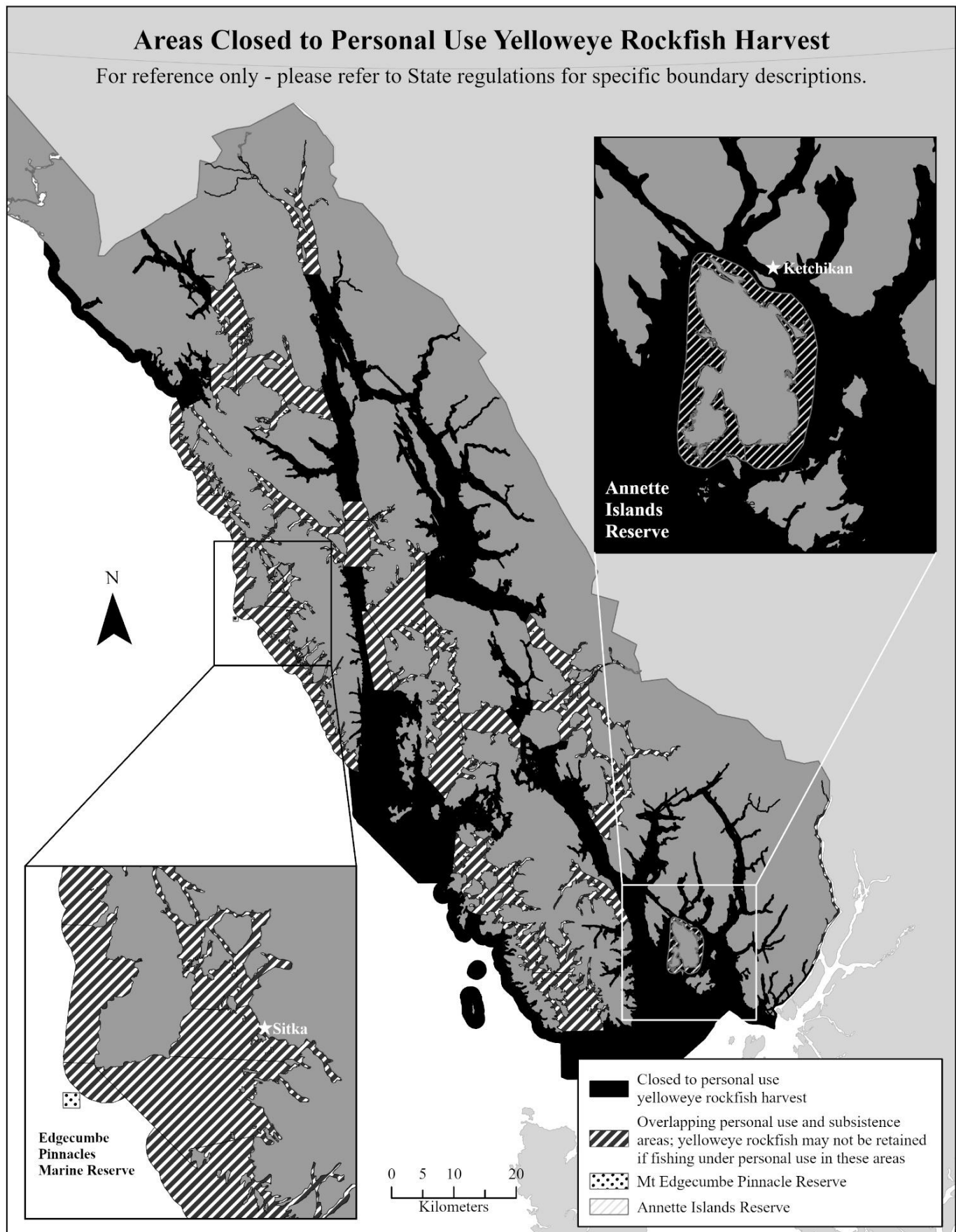


Figure 1.—Map of areas closed to personal use harvest of yelloweye rockfish. This map is for general reference only. For descriptions of management area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 77.655, 5 AAC 77.674, and 5 AAC 01.716.